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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Inventor: **GARDINER, PAUL**

Application No.: **09/775,431**

Group Art Unit: **1617**

Filed: **February 1, 2001**

Examiner: **BAHAR, M**

For: **ALPHA LIPOIC ACID BASED FOOD SUPPLEMENT FOR INCREASING  
LEAN MUSCLE MASS AND STRENGTH**

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Hon. Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Preliminary Amendment**

Dear SIR:

This preliminary amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action Dated May 3, 2002 and the Advisory Action dated November 6, 2002 in the above-captioned application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any payment due in connection with these papers, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.